



President's Report

February 2022

ANZAP Council

Dr Nicholas Cole	NZ President
Dr Tasha Mackie	NZ Secretary / Treasurer
Prof Ivan Darby	VIC Vice President
A/Prof Tino Mercado	NSW
Dr Kaye Kendall	QLD
Dr Sam Chen	SA
Dr Wendy Gill	WA

This AGM marks the transition and end of my two-year role as president. March 2020 will be remembered for the emergence of Covid-19 and the first of our cancelled meetings. Since then, despite best efforts, we have not met as a full Academy.

Regardless ANZAP has continued to move forward. As individuals and collectively we have coped. ANZAP membership has remained strong and in certain segments strengthened. Whilst we do not collect accurate demographic data, a survey of the membership, the first conducted, gave Council and the membership an insight into many facets of our practising life, attitudes and to a certain degree expectations for the future. My hope that having published the results of the survey, that it would generate conversation at later meetings. Unfortunately, we have not had a full meeting since then.

We are seeing a change of the guard. The founders of ANZAP in 1986 are gradually retiring, even now some still contribute actively to ANZAP. I cannot commend these members enough for their foresight and lifelong professional contributions. The "junior" membership is strong and from my appreciation over the last 2 years, particularly engaged.

A question that dominates for me, where does ANZAP stand today and what expectation do we have individually and collectively for the future? If we consider this, do we model ourselves on a similar organisation or body? Council intended to have a one-day strategy meeting in November 2021, which did not occur due to Covid. This would have been a first and would I believe, from there resulted in formal and informal discussions within the membership.

I wish to thank individual members who contacted me offering opinions around ANZAP's direction and opinions on decisions that Council has made on your behalf. We rely on this feedback. We reach out to solicit help, yet unsolicited responses and opinions are equally important. As ANZAP grows I envisage the need for a larger committee substructure under Council to share the load. We have in the past considered

having an executive officer as well as Kayla Ashkar in the Secretariat. Whilst this did not progress, the issue will come up for consideration again.

I can report that Council met 9 times in 2021

- We have advanced ANZAP's position as the peak organisation for periodontology supporting both undergraduate and postgraduate education. Course convenors for many of the postgraduate programs have welcomed the guidelines that help to define commonality throughout Australasia. We are indebted to Ivan Darby for his contribution to this project.
- ANZAP has continued to enhance support for students during their postgraduate training, connecting students across Australasia using social media. I believe the value of this is reflected in the growing student membership.
- ANZAP's professional profile has been raised with increased interaction with ADA. We have significantly contributed to the new ADA website. This has been a mutually beneficial relationship. We were also involved with consultation processes during Covid-19.
- ANZAP members have been involved with the Dental Council of New Zealand, commenting on, and offering an opinion as to how the process of recognition of foreign postgraduate qualifications might be improved. Members will be aware of the Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Agreement. There is marked disparity in this process comparing Australia and New Zealand. We have not had a similar communication with Australian regulatory bodies.
 - There are dental workforce issues recruiting staff to teach periodontology at undergraduate and postgraduate levels. There is also a shortage of graduating periodontists to meet private practice needs. I believe that ANZAP needs to consider how we can further support and promote periodontology.

ANZAP is in a strong financial position as Dr Tasha Mackie, has reported. We have a further IT project for 2022 as we replace and update our membership website and its underlying organisation management software.

I must thank the rules committee for their contribution, updating ANZAP's rules. Considering membership classes, by nomination for Life Membership, we recognise meritorious contribution to ANZAP. We do not however presently have a mechanism for recognition of those who contribute outside ANZAP, but in a similar way, to the discipline and teaching of Periodontology. The committee has recommended an additional recognition titled The ANZAP Order of Merit, also to be known as The Don Haig Award. Council intends to confer this award for the first time at the 2023 meeting to be held in Melbourne.

We have set out to increase the profile of ANZAP as an organisation and to better serve the public with the launch of our public facing website. As part of this project, we have also rebranded and updated the ANZAP logo. With the website, I must thank Tino Mercado for his project management. I need to thank the authors, 15 of them, who provided the text for the website. I do not envisage this as a static website – it is only a starting point, to be critiqued and further optimised.

I am sad not to have enjoyed a physical meeting, meeting the membership during my presidency, however look forward to seeing you in 2023 in Melbourne. I need to thank Kayla Ashkar. In our 10 years of having a secretariat, she is the third person to hold this position. Over this time, I have watched this role develop. It carries enormous responsibility, and I can say that we are privileged and fortunate to have her working for and on our behalf.

Lastly, I must thank my fellow Councillors for their remarkable contribution over the last 2 years, and supporting me in my presidency. I know that the organisation is in good hands as I pass the baton to Prof Ivan Darby who will succeed me as President.



Nicholas Cole
President 2020-2022